CHILDREN OF CHINA

222

A Merry Christmas
to [redacted]
from [redacted]

Children of China

This little book has grown out of the author's intimate knowledge of Chinese people and their ways, much of which was gained from a fifteen-year residence in China teaching Chinese children. It does not attempt to cover the less representatively Chinese territories, Tibet and Sinkiang.

The photograph on the cover was supplied by Mrs. Branson De Cou; the photographs illustrating As They Do Things in China, The People of China, Chinese Food, How Chinese Girls Dress, Peiping and Its Forbidden City, Games and Pets, Chinese Shops, Chinese Coolies, Children Who Live on the Water, Chinese Junks, Rice Farming in China, Chinese Art, Chinese Music were supplied by Ewing Galloway; those illustrating The Sleeping Giant, The Great Wall, Traveling in China, The Middle Glorious People's Kingdom were supplied by Herbert Clarence and J. Henry White, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

The photographs illustrating The Walking Shop, Modern Chinese Cities were supplied by Century Photos; the photograph of the old-time school and that illustrating Through Chinese Streets were supplied by Brown Brothers. Paul Photos supplied the photograph illustrating Boys' Costume; Publishers' Photo Service, the one illustrating Silk—the Chinese Secret; Underwood & Underwood, the one illustrating Useful Bamboo; William Thompson Photos, that illustrating The Chinese Family. The author supplied the photographs for the half-title and title pages, the one illustrating Chinese Festivals, and those of the Chinese baby, and the modern school. The Chinese characters on the last page were written by Billy Ginn.

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Children of China

By STELLA M. RUDY

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Soviet Union
Tannu Tuva
Mongolia
Manchukuo
Sea of Japan
Chosen
Yellow Sea
East China Sea
The Great Wall
Peiping (PEKING)
Tientsin
Grand Canal
The Gobi (Desert)
Sinkiang
Yellow River
Nanking
Shanghai
Hankow
Hangchow
Tibet
Yangtze River
Changsha
Mt. Everest
NEPAL
BHUTAN
India
West River
Canton
Hong Kong
Victoria
French Indochina
Siam
Bay of Bengal
CHINA
Geo. H. Bedeen

The Flowery Kingdom

The fertile land of China—sometimes called the Flowery Kingdom—is the home of one of the oldest nations in the world.

For centuries the Chinese people lived in peace, protected on the east by the ocean; on the south and southwest by high mountains; and on the west by still higher mountains, great deserts, and high wide plains. Only the northern side was open to the attack of wild tribes, and there the Chinese built their Great Wall.

The Yangtze River which flows across central China is one of the great rivers of the world. The Yellow River in the north, and the West River in the south, are also important. The Grand Canal connects Hangchow and Tientsin. Three of China's greatest cities —Shanghai, Canton, and Nanking—are river ports. Peiping, an inland city, is the gateway for trade with northern Asia.

In northern China the winters are cold and the summers are hot; in southern China the climate is moist and warm.

The Sleeping Giant

Long, long ago there was a great and powerful giant, called *Chung Kwok,* who knew how to do a great many wonderful things. But he made the mistake of thinking that he knew everything there was to learn, and he was not willing to share his secrets with others. He shut himself in his house, locked the door, and went to sleep. *Chung Kwok* means China, or the Middle Kingdom.

At last the great sleeping giant, *Chung Kwok,* began to stir. He unlocked his doors and looked around. Then he made a discovery. There were other countries and other people as wise as he!

And when people of other countries peeped into this mysterious land they made discoveries, too. They found that long before the kings of other countries knew anything about silk the Chinese people were wearing gorgeous silk robes. They discovered that the Chinese people were eating out of beautiful porcelain dishes when people of other lands were using dishes of coarse clay. They learned that long before the days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, there were great cities and towns in China, the Middle Kingdom.

A GLIMPSE INTO CHINA

As They Do Things in China

When one friend meets another in China, he bows and shakes his own hand instead of his friend's. Chinese family names come first instead of last. To read a book, the Chinese begin at the back, and read from right to left, and from top to bottom.

Chinese people wear fur on the inside of their coats instead of on the outside. Mourners wear white instead of black, and brides wear red instead of white. The bride goes to the home of the groom for the wedding instead of being married at her home. The Chinese push their needles away from them instead of toward them when they sew, and do the same with a knife when peeling fruit or vegetables.

In China, fruit is eaten at the beginning of the meal and soup near the end. Chinese people do not think it impolite to make a noise when eating soup or sipping tea.

It would seem to us like a topsy-turvy land, but to the Chinese it is our ways that are strange.

WRITING FROM RIGHT TO LEFT

The People of China

There are more people in China than in any other country—one-fourth of all the people in the world. They live in big walled cities with narrow streets, in villages far back in the mountains, along rivers, on boats, and in caves. The Chinese have yellow skin, straight black hair, and bright black, almond-shaped eyes. The people of the south are smaller than those of the north.

There are so many different languages spoken in China that it is difficult for people from different parts of the country to understand one another. The people of northern and central China speak the Mandarin language, the official language of China. Those of the south speak Cantonese, a gay and musical language.

The Chinese people are wise, patient, and industrious. They have given the world many things—paper, tea, silk, lacquer ware, fine porcelain, umbrellas, carved jade, fine needlework, gunpowder, and the compass. They wore silk gowns, carried umbrellas, shot off firecrackers, and printed books hundreds of years before Columbus discovered America.

PAINTING LACQUER WARE IN CHINA

The Chinese Home

Most houses in China are built of bricks and have tile roofs which curl up at the corners. Poorer homes are of bamboo plastered with mud, and have thatched roofs. There is often just one room in which the family lives, eats, and sleeps.

The floors of Chinese houses are of brick or of mud, pounded smooth. The walls are usually whitewashed and decorated with long banners on which wise sayings or blessings are written.

Every prosperous Chinese home has a guest hall which is also the family living room and dining room. At the side, or back, of the guest hall may be one or two bedrooms. A very important room is the kitchen. Here food is cooked over a little fire, made of sticks or straw, in a small earthen stove which stands on a stone table. Some kitchens have several stoves, each just big enough to hold one kettle. In northern China, large stone stoves are used.

Nearly every Chinese home has a "heavenly well," or courtyard surrounded by a high wall, with pots of bright flowers, goldfish in a small pond, and tiny clay bridges, pagodas, and temples.

A COUNTRY HOME IN CHINA

The Chinese Family

Usually there are aunts, uncles, and many little cousins living together in one house in China, for a Chinese man brings his bride home to his father's house. The grandparents are the most honored members of the family. The children call Grandpa "Goong Goong," and Grandma "Paw Paw." Paw Paw loves the children, tells them stories of old China, and repeats nursery rhymes to them as she sits in a low bamboo chair, making shoes and clothing for the family. She has tiny feet and cannot walk much, because when she was a baby it was the style to tie up Chinese girls' feet to keep them small. The children bow to Paw Paw when they go to school, and say "Sit slowly." That means "good-by." Paw Paw pats their glossy black heads and says, "Walk slowly." When the family sits down at the table, all wait for Paw Paw to say, "Eat rice." Then all begin.

If someone wishes to know how many there are in a Chinese family, he will ask the father, "How many mouths are there in your lofty house?" The father will reply, "My little hut has seven mouths to feed," meaning that there are seven in the family.

A CHINESE FAMILY—GRANDPARENT, PARENTS, AND CHILDREN

The Chinese Baby

The Chinese people love their babies, and boy babies are almost as important in the family as the grandparents. When a baby boy is born, friends and relatives come to rejoice with the parents. When he is a month old a special feast is given for him. He receives fine presents, and a barber comes and shaves all but one little patch of hair off his head. Paw Paw dresses him up in a red satin coat, green trousers, and a funny little cap with "ears" out over the sides, like a tiger's ears, so he may grow up strong and fearless. His red satin shoes are shaped at the toes like a pussycat's head, to help him walk through life as softly as a pussy does.

In China names must have a meaning, so parents often ask a fortune teller to choose a fitting name for their baby boy. The first year of a baby's life he is given a "milk name" or pet name, such as *Shue Tsz,* or "Little Mouse." Numbers are also used as names. The oldest child in a family may be called "Number One;" the next, "Number Two," and so on. If Chinese children do not like their names, they may change them—which they often do, several times.

A CHINESE FORTUNE TELLER

A CHINESE BABY

Chinese Food

Chinese food is cut into small pieces so that it can be picked up easily with chopsticks, two small wooden or ivory sticks, which even small children learn to use instead of a knife and fork.

Chopsticks are held in the right hand and the rice bowl in the left hand throughout the meal. Rice is the main food in China. It is cooked without salt or butter, while the rest of the food is always well-seasoned. Chinese people also eat string beans nearly a foot long, long Chinese cabbage, and other vegetables. On feast days and holidays, special dishes are prepared. A whole chicken, goose, or duck may be stewed with lotus buds, almonds, water chestnuts, bamboo shoots, and dried celery. Men, women, and children drink tea at almost any hour of the day. It is the first thing offered to a guest. Even babies drink tea in China. Chinese people do not keep cows, and so have no milk.

As soon as a person has finished eating, he must leave the table, for, if he stayed, it would look as though he were still hungry. But every bit of food must be eaten, or the cook might feel insulted.

"RICE TIME" IN A CHINESE HOME

Boys' Costume

A Chinese boy wears a loose coat, called a *sham,* which buttons down the front. His trousers are loose and are fastened around the waist by a string. They reach to the ankles, where a broad band, wrapped several times around each ankle, forms a sort of cuff. On holidays the Chinese boy looks very fine in a long bright-colored *sham* like his father's. It is untrimmed and the sleeves are long. On top of this "dress-up" *sham,* he wears a vest of plain sateen or figured silk, usually either black or a dark color.

In winter Chinese people wear several padded cotton coats to keep warm, both outdoors and in their unheated homes. When asked how cold it is, they answer that it is "five coats cold" or "seven coats cold."

Boys and men wear the basin cap—a small rimless hat of black sateen. In winter small boys wear fleece-lined hoods. A Chinese boy or man feels very dressed up in a modern derby, felt, or straw hat worn with his Chinese *sham,* and many Chinese boys and men today wear American-style clothes.

CHINESE BOYS IN "DRESS-UP" SHAMS

How Chinese Girls Dress

A Chinese girl wears a short coat with kimono sleeves, called a *sham*. It is made of figured or flowered silk or satin, plain wool, or cotton. It is usually trimmed with braid, and is worn over long, loose trousers. A girl's *sham* is very much like her mother's, but schoolgirls today are beginning to wear skirts instead of trousers. Their *shams* are long, reaching to between the knees and ankles, and are close-fitting under the arms, very narrow around the waist, but wider at the bottom. The sleeves are short or elbow-length.

Leather shoes are expensive, so most of the shoes worn in China are of coarse, dark cloth, and are made by the girls and women of the household. To make the thick soles, small scraps of cloth are laid, layer upon layer, between two pieces of very strong cloth. Fancier shoes are made of silk or satin and are beautifully embroidered with designs of flowers or birds.

In rainy weather the Chinese often wear cloth shoes soaked in oil, with brass nails to keep them from slipping. In modern Chinese cities, American-style shoes are worn.

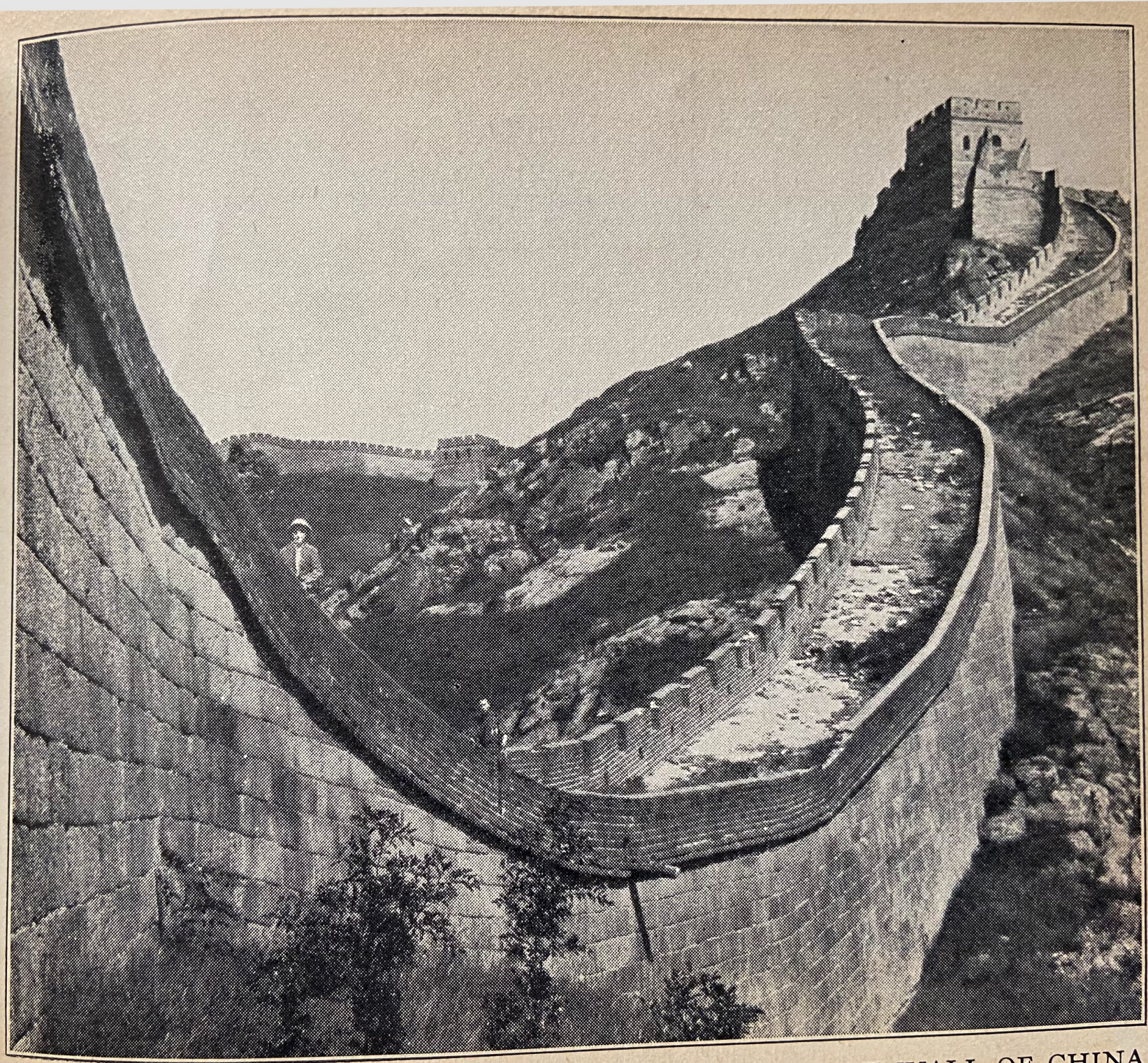
MAKING A PAIR OF FANCY SHOES

The Great Wall

The Great Wall of China is one of the wonders of the world. It was begun over two thousand years ago, under the first emperor of China, to keep out enemies—the wild tribes of the north. It is often called "The Great Wall of Peace," because it was built so the Chinese could live and care for their rice fields in peace.

The wall stretches across the northern boundary of China, from the mountains near Mongolia to the coast. If it were built in a straight line, it would extend about fifteen hundred miles—almost as far as from New York City to Denver, Colorado. But, with all its winding curves, the Great Wall is nearly four thousand miles long. In some places it climbs over rough mountains, then crawls down into deep valleys, then rises again to still greater heights. It is more than twenty feet high and the roadway on top is from ten to thirteen feet wide. It has twenty thousand towers, about forty feet high, and seventy pagodas.

In spite of all kinds of wind and weather through more than twenty centuries, the Great Wall still stands.



A PART OF THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

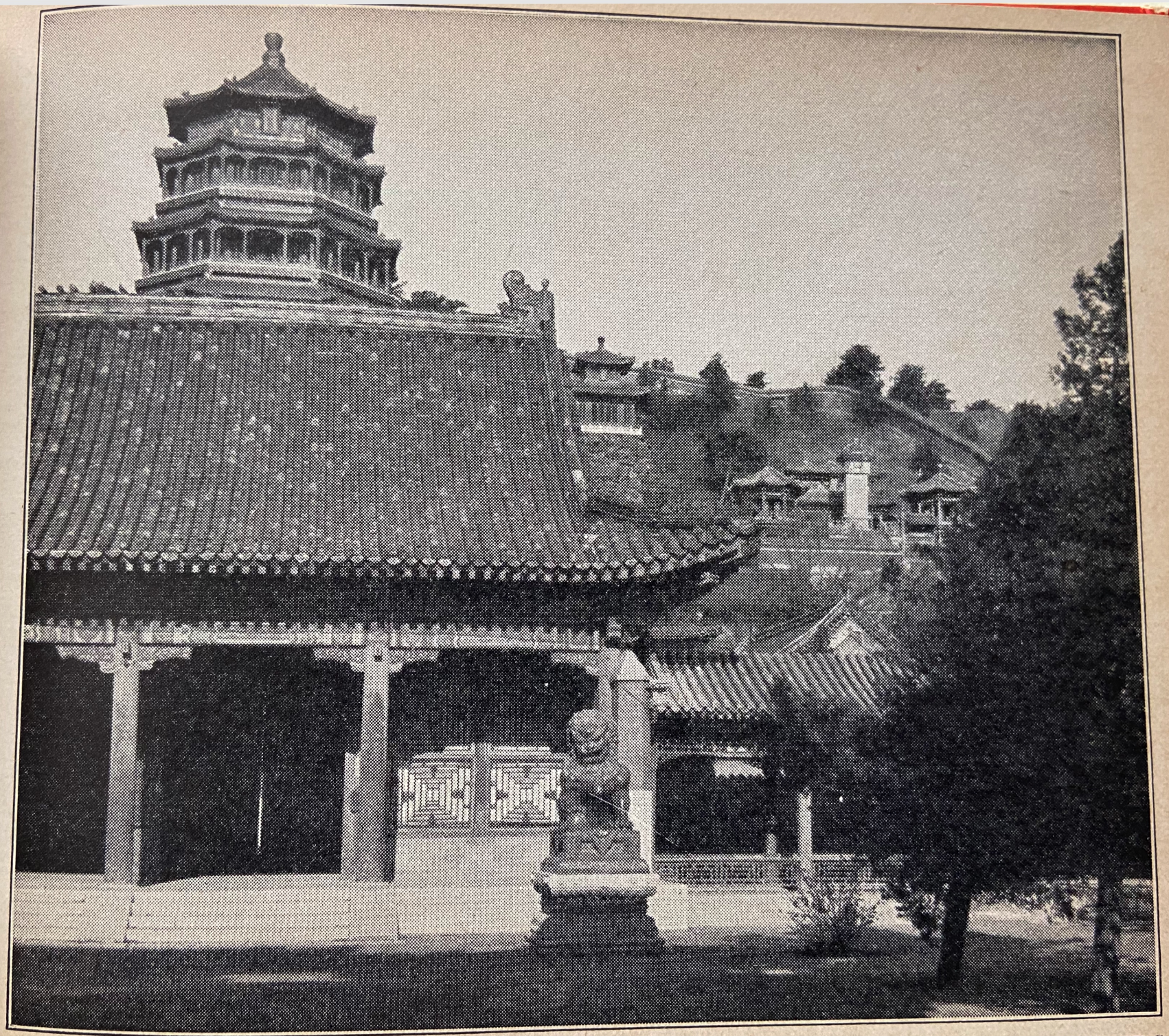
Peiping and Its Forbidden City

Peking, which means "Northern Capital," was the home of the emperors of China for many centuries. In 1912, the Chinese people rebelled against their emperors and made China a republic. In 1928, when they made Nanking their capital, they changed the name Peking to Peiping, which means "Northern Peace."

The city of Peiping today is a curious mixture of old and new, and travelers who may stay in luxurious modern hotels gaze in wonder upon the gorgeous temples, pagodas, "camel's back" bridges, curious monuments, and camel caravans from the desert.

There are sixteen gates with big towers in the massive outer walls, within which are four cities—the Chinese City, the Tartar City, the old Imperial City, and the Forbidden City. The heart of Peiping, where the emperors who ruled China lived in yellow-roofed palaces, was called the Forbidden City, because, for many years, it was closed to all except Chinese officials.

Near Peiping is also the famous Summer Palace of the last of the old rulers, and the Marble Boat of the last Empress Dowager.



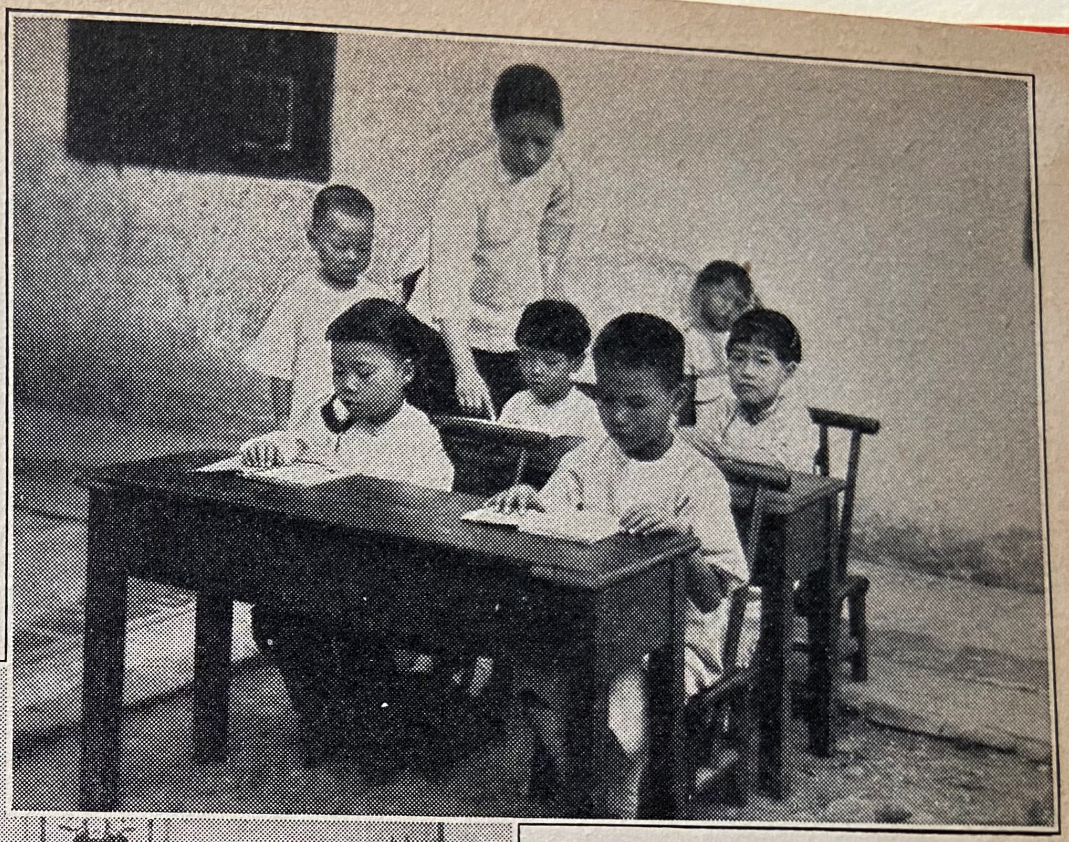
LOVELY PAVILIONS ON THE SUMMER PALACE GROUNDS

Going to School in China

Before China became a republic, Chinese boys used for their first reader a thin paper-covered book with pictures and large characters, or signs made with a brush, each of which stood for a word. The teacher read the characters aloud to each pupil, without any explanation. Then the pupil went to his seat and studied his lesson out loud, repeating many times the words the characters stood for. As soon as he knew his lesson, he came forward, bowed to the teacher, and handed him his book. Then, turning his back to the teacher, he began to recite. Sometimes the schoolroom became very noisy with so many boys studying and reciting different lessons aloud. This made the teacher happy, because then he knew that his pupils were industrious. Chinese boys learned to add, subtract, multiply, and divide on the **abacus**, a counting board with wires or wooden rods, on which beads are pushed back and forth.

How different the Chinese schoolroom is today, with modern desks, chairs, and blackboards! Girls as well as boys may go to school now, and lessons are much like those in American schools.

IN A MODERN
CHINESE SCHOOL



A SCHOOL OF
OLD-TIME CHINA

Games and Pets

Most Chinese boys like to play *Ta In,* or shuttlecock. The shuttlecock is a cork with feathers stuck in it, which boys kick into the air. This game has rules and in some ways is like our game of baseball, which modern boys and girls in China also enjoy playing.

One of the favorite games of Chinese boys and girls is "Cat and Mouse." One player is chosen to be the cat; another, the mouse. The rest form a circle with their hands joined together. The cat on the outside tries to break through the players' hands to get the mouse on the inside. The players always help the mouse by lifting their hands to let him through, or by keeping the cat out. When the mouse is caught, the cat becomes mouse, and a new cat is chosen.

Birds and goldfish, and some insects, like the katydid, are about the only kinds of pets Chinese children have. Dogs are given a home, but are not petted.

Chinese men love their pet birds and often carry them in cages through the streets for an airing. The bird cages have fancy dishes for food and water, and are decorated with bright silk tassels.

CHINESE BOYS LIKE AMERICAN GAMES, TOO

Traveling in China

In some parts of China the wheelbarrow is used for passenger transportation as well as for carrying goods. It is big and clumsy, with a large wooden wheel in front, and a shelf on either side where people sit or put their baggage. Sometimes when the wheelbarrow hits a rut, it upsets and out tumble passengers, baggage, and all. There is no extra charge for the tumble!

One of the pleasantest ways to travel in China is in the comfortable two-wheeled *jinrikisha,* or man-pulled carriage, with its seat just wide enough for one person. The man who pulls it runs swiftly through the streets. In some places people still ride in open or covered sedan chairs. These are armchairs made of bamboo, with long poles at each side. Two men, one in front and one in back, with the poles on their shoulders, carry people—one at a time—in these chairs for long distances, often up steep hills.

The streets of Chinese cities are being made wider now and the roads better—and buses are fast taking the place of wheelbarrows, sedan chairs, and "*rikshas.*"

WHEELBARROW-RIDING IN CHINA

Chinese Coolies

Many thousands of coolies, the Chinese laborers, earn their daily food pulling "*rikshas,*" pushing or pulling loads, or carrying freight on their shoulders. The load hangs by ropes from each end of a pole, balanced across the shoulder. If the load is shared by two coolies, the pole extends from the shoulder of the front coolie to the shoulder of the one behind, and the load hangs from ropes between them. They dogtrot along together, keeping step with each other and sometimes singing a little song all their own, or grunting if the load is heavy. Occasionally they stop to rest or to shift the pole on the shoulder.

When several coolies follow one another, the front one shouts to clear the way through the crowded streets. When anything is in the way, the front coolie sings a warning to the coolies behind him. If the path is narrow, he sings:

"Thorny bushes fringe each side,"

and the coolies behind him answer in the same rhythm:

"In the midst you must abide."

A CHINESE COOLIE WITH HIS SHOULDER LOAD

Through Chinese Streets

In the smaller cities of China everybody walks or rides through the middle of the narrow streets paved with rounded stones. There are no trees or sidewalks along the sides, only long rows of low houses of brick or mud-plastered bamboo. Even in the larger cities with wider streets, *jinrikishas,* wheelbarrows, sedan chairs, water carriers, coolies carrying all sorts of heavy loads, and people walking, all crowd the streets together.

Shops open right on the street. The long boards which form the front of the shop are lifted off during the day. At night these boards are put back, and wooden bars are fastened across them.

Long narrow signboards with Chinese writing on them hang on the outside of the shops. It is hard to guess from the signboard what a shop contains. "Everlasting Happiness Shop" might sell wedding things, and "Comfort Garden" might be a restaurant. Streets are named according to the particular thing made or sold on them—"Shoe Street," "Egg Street," "Bamboo Street."

A BUSY STREET IN SHANGHAI

Chinese Shops

If you saw a shop with the name "Honest Forever" on the front you would never guess that it was a silk shop.

In silk shops in China, goods are always wrapped and carefully stacked on shelves. The merchant is not very eager to open the packages until he sees that the customer is a "buying guest," not just a "look-see" visitor. If material for a dress is being bought, the merchant measures and cuts it very carefully, so that not an inch is wasted. Every merchant uses the abacus, or counting board, to figure his sales. Material is sold by the foot, not by the yard, and the Chinese foot measures fourteen inches.

In the food shops no paper bags are provided for customers. Meat and vegetables are tied with straw or bamboo string and are carried by the loop. Other purchases are put into a large bamboo basket brought by the "buying guest."

Every shop has long narrow mottoes on the walls. A popular one says: "Blessing for the State, Happiness for the Family, Long Life for the Individual, Plenty for the Year."

"HONEST FOREVER"—A SILK SHOP IN CANTON

The Walking Shop

Many a tradesman in China cannot afford to rent a shop. So he has a "walking shop," and carries his goods hung from the ends of a bamboo pole which is balanced on one shoulder. Because poorer people buy only a little of anything at a time, these walking shops have only a small quantity of things for sale. One walking-shop merchant fries cakes which cost a "cash" (a tenth of our penny), while the customer waits. Another sells soup; another, candy.

When the bell of the walking candy shop tinkles, boys and girls come flocking out of every door on the street. The candy man smiles and sets the two boxes or baskets which he has been carrying on his pole down on the street. The children eagerly watch his nimble fingers as he makes the most interesting things out of warm red or yellow taffy. Glory Bright begs him to make her a red bird and holds out two cash for it. Strong and Brave wants a tiny sword to fight the make-believe dragon. Wherever the good-natured candy man goes in China, children follow him about, then return home with happy smiles and sticky fingers!

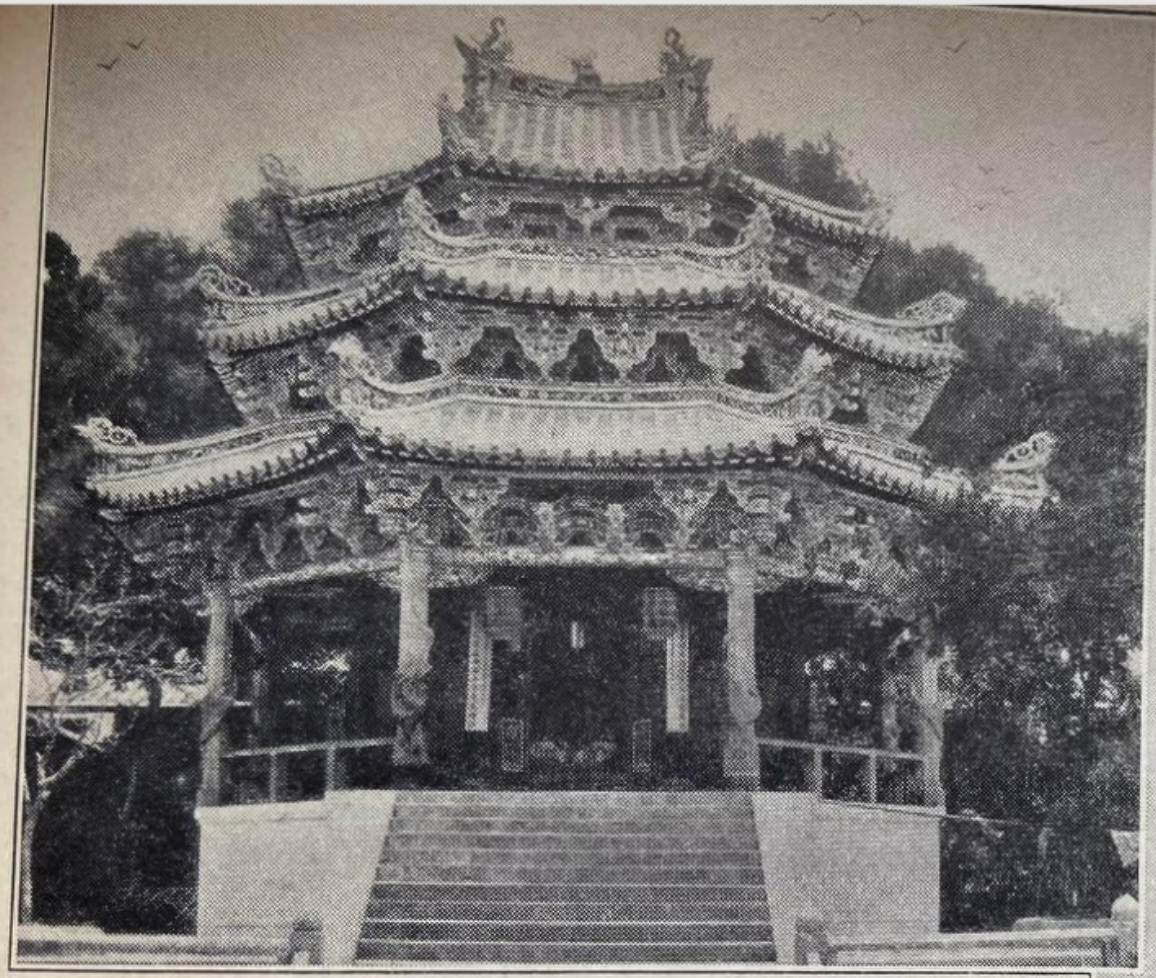
ENJOYING GOODIES FROM A WALKING SHOP

Temples and Pagodas

All over China are towering pagodas—some of them as many as nine stories high. They are usually eight-sided, gradually growing smaller toward the top and ending in a peak.

These pagodas are supposed to bring good luck to a city. From their tops can be seen the distant hills, rivers, and mountains.

Some of the oldest and most beautiful temples in the world are in China. There is at least one temple in every city and village. Temples are also often nestled against a hillside or far back in the mountains. Some of them are beautifully carved. The roofs curve upward at the edges and are decorated with queer-looking fish, birds, animals, or the dragon. Some temples are made of bright-colored porcelain. Inside are rows and rows of idols, and the air is heavy with smoke from flickering candles and incense. Most Chinese people follow the Buddhist religion, others follow Taoism and Confucianism, although most people believe in all three. But there are also many Christians in China today.



A BEAUTIFULLY CARVED TEMPLE

A GRACEFUL PAGODA

Chinese Festivals

New Year's is the greatest holiday of the year in China. It comes in January or February, according to the phase of the moon, and lasts two whole weeks. The Chinese band pounds out the old year and pulls in the new year on noisy instruments, with much rejoicing and banging of firecrackers. Everyone is dressed in gay new clothes, and everywhere special dishes are prepared for the holiday feasts. In China, red is the color which stands for happiness, so everything is red at New Year's, from greeting cards to firecrackers.

The Dragon Festival is celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth moon in memory of a Chinese patriot who lived many years ago. There are dragon-boat races on the water and dragon processions on the streets. Drums are beaten, and people feast, joke, and laugh.

Kite Day is a festival greatly enjoyed by Chinese boys. On this day boys, and men too, fly kites, some of which look like huge birds, fish, butterflies, or the dragon.

In early spring comes the Lantern Festival. Then lanterns of all shapes and sizes are hung out or carried in joyous processions.

A DRAGON FESTIVAL PROCESSION

Children Who Live on the Water

There are more boats in China than in any other country in the world. Thousands of Chinese boys and girls live on boats and never know any other home than a *sampan,* a houseboat, or a junk.

The *sampan* has a roof or hood of woven bamboo over the center part, where the family lives. The kitchen is at the back, and there the family squats to eat when rice is ready. Some *sampan* people earn their living by loading and unloading passengers and freight from larger vessels.

Chinese boat children do not usually go to school, but they learn all there is to know about a boat. They can help pull the oar forward and push it backward. They can put up a sail and take it down surprisingly fast in a sudden gale. They know when a storm is coming and how to prepare for it. These Chinese boat children learn how to cook rice, wash their clothes in the river, and pound them clean on stones near the shore. The babies toddle about with a little barrel-shaped piece of bamboo tied around their waists to keep them afloat if they should tumble overboard.

ON A RIVER BOAT AT CANTON

Chinese Junks

Junks are large ships which carry freight. They have from one to four masts, and some of them are three or four hundred years old. These boats carry salt, tea, rice, wood, vegetables, fruit, and other things from one city to another, and often go far up rivers and canals to inland China. The boatmen stand as they move the oars back and forth. The place where an oar is fastened is never oiled, so it always squeaks. This squeak is music to the ears of the boatmen. They would not think of taking it out, for fear bad luck would come to them on the trip.

On some junks there are pictures of birds, particularly the phœnix, which the Chinese believe will bring good luck. Other junks have the sun or moon painted on them. Still others have an eye painted in front, which makes them look like great fish. The eye is supposed to see the rocks and lead the boatmen into paths of safety. Sometimes a boatman shouts to the god of the wind and water to send him *shoon foong* or "fair wind."

JUNKS AND SAMPANS IN HANGCHOW HARBOR

Useful Bamboo

The Chinese use bamboo for almost everything. In fact, there is no other growing thing quite so useful in China as bamboo. It is almost as important to the Chinese as steel and iron are to us.

It grows from fifty to seventy-five feet high, and its tall supple branches look like waving plumes. Bamboo has long hollow stems which are sometimes nine or ten inches thick. There are many bamboo groves in central China, but in the south it grows in clumps along the river.

Bamboo bends so easily that the Chinese use it for making chairs, beds, other furniture, buckets, cups, paper, hats, and many more things. Bamboo strips are woven into baskets and matting, and are used for umbrella frames, lanterns, fans, and kites.

Because of the importance of bamboo and the many ways it is used in China, one often hears it called "the old man's staff," "the beggar's guide," "the farmer's rake," "the housewife's broom," and "the scholar's pen." Its leaves are made into raincoats and its tender shoots are eaten as a delicate spring treat.

A BAMBOO GROVE

Rice Farming in China

At a distance, the paddy or rice fields of China look like a patchwork quilt. Between each two patches is a low mud wall which is also a footpath. On the hillsides the leveled-off patches make the slopes look like giant stairs. The Chinese do not waste anything; they plant a garden or grow rice wherever they can.

There is a great deal of work connected with the growing of rice, because the paddy fields must always be covered with water. The little seed plants are first sown in shallow water, then taken out, planted again, and covered with more water. When there is no rain, people water the fields by means of large water wheels, which, as they turn, lift buckets full of water from a stream and dump them into a trough or ditch. The Chinese farmer gets two crops of rice a year. He puts in the plants of the second crop between the plants of the first crop before the first crop is harvested.

Rice is so important in China that, instead of asking, "How do you do?" one asks, "Have you eaten your rice yet?" If the answer is "Not yet," one says, "Pardon me for having eaten first."

Silk—the Chinese Secret

It was the Chinese who first discovered how to make silk, and they kept their secret from the rest of the world for hundreds of years. Then a Chinese princess who went to live in India smuggled some silkworm eggs out of China in her hair, and showed the people of India how to make silk.

Today the sale of silk brings China more money than any other product. Many Chinese families raise silkworms. The silk moth lays its tiny eggs, no bigger than pinheads, on strips of paper which the Chinese carefully place on trays in a warm place. There they are kept until the silkworms are hatched. The baby worms are fed green mulberry leaves, cut into tiny pieces, night and day. After three weeks, when they have slept a great deal and have grown larger, the worms, or caterpillars, start to spin their cocoons. Each little caterpillar wraps itself up in a thousand or so yards of fine silk thread. When this is done, Chinese girls and women throw the cocoons into boiling water to kill the worms inside. Then the strands of silk thread are ready to be wound on reels.

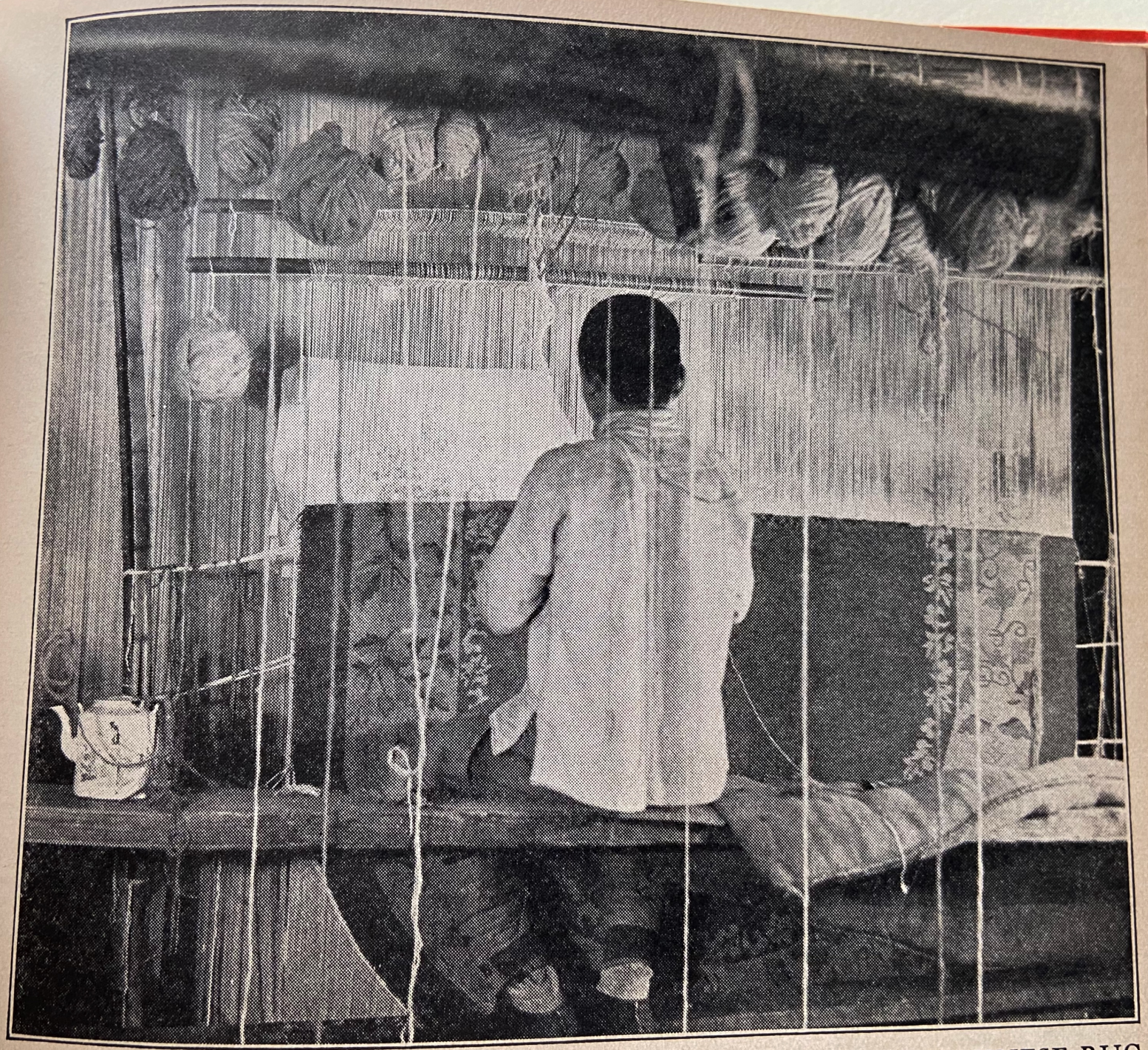
SORTING SILKWORM COCOONS

Chinese Art

There are few machines in China and the people make almost everything by hand. The Chinese are a beauty-loving people. They will work patiently over an object of beauty such as a vase, or some delicate carving or embroidery, and never give up until the task is finished. The worker asks a very small sum for his time. But Chinese people do not count time as we do.

Every pattern, character, and flower, is not only chosen for its beauty, but also for its special meaning. The peony stands for spring and prosperity; the lotus, for purity; the dragon, for power and wisdom. The bamboo and the pine, the crane and the tortoise, all mean long life. A fan stands for authority.

There are many factories in China today where beautiful rugs, like those of ancient China, are made. They are colored with pure vegetable dyes, according to a secret handed down from olden times. A man draws the patterns which are worked into the rugs by boys who also cut and tie the yarns carefully by hand.



WEAVING A BEAUTIFUL CHINESE RUG

Chinese Music

Music is a big part of Chinese festivals, weddings, and funerals. The native musicians blow, pound, or pull on instruments of many shapes and sizes, and the guests greatly enjoy the result. The clanging of gongs, the pounding of drums and cymbals, and the beating of tom-toms often drown out the "eight tones" (as the Chinese call music) of the rest of the band.

Some Chinese musical instruments look something like the guitar, banjo, flute, and fiddle. The Chinese fiddle is played with a horsehair bow and is held across the lap.

Although most Chinese music is high-pitched and seems somewhat strange to us, yet Chinese school-children learn to sing in beautiful harmony and to chant their favorite poems and psalms.

Noise and music always go together in China. The band plays on New Year's, drums are beaten for the Dragon Festival, and on all occasions of rejoicing firecrackers, strung on long strings, are shot off by the thousand.

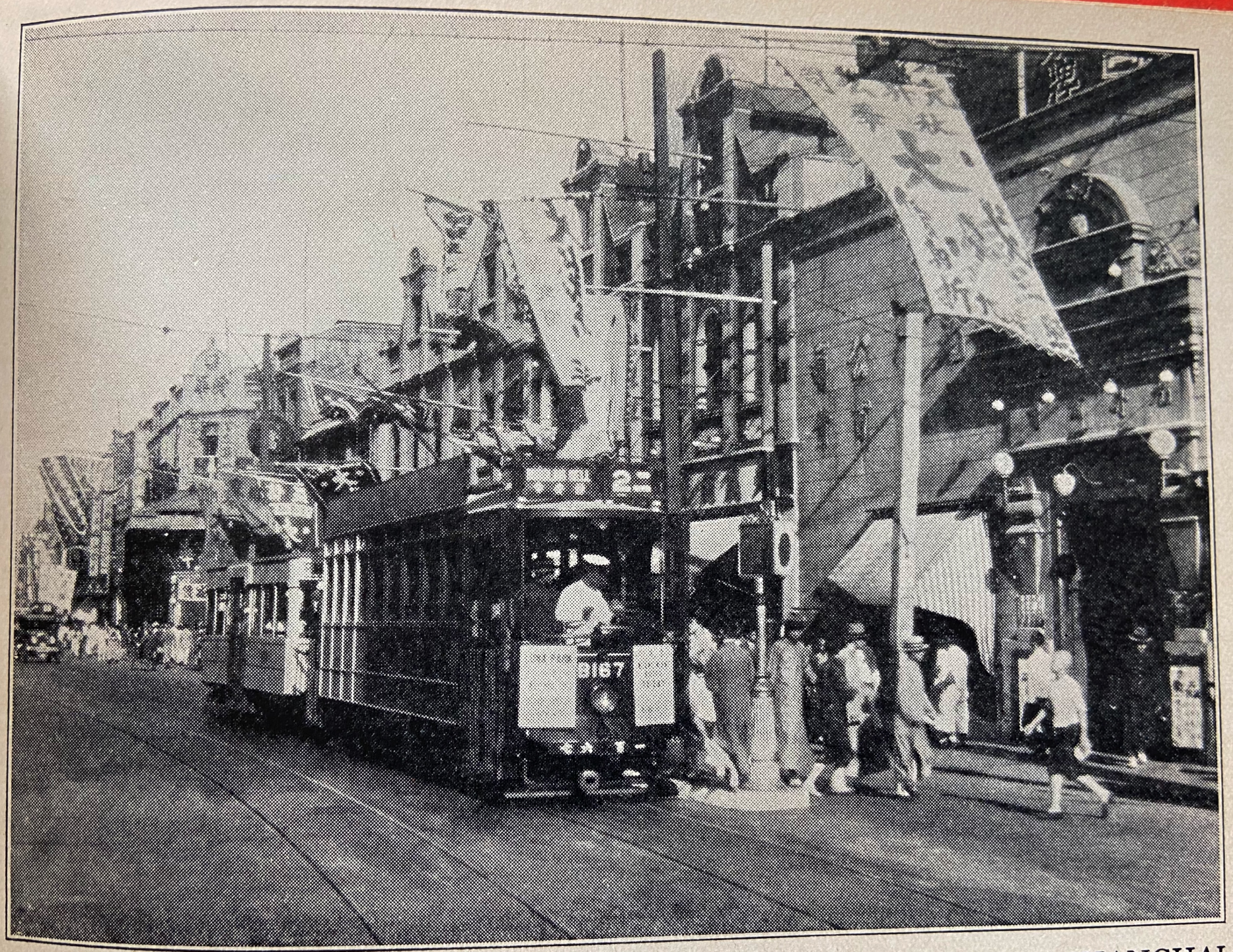
A GIRLS' ORCHESTRA IN CHINA

Modern Chinese Cities

In large Chinese cities, ancient and modern ways of living go on side by side. "*Rikshas*" run along beside motor cars and fast speeding trucks. Next to modern hospitals are shops where ancient medicines, such as snake skins, tigers' teeth, and age-old herbs are sold.

Since 1928, when Nanking became China's capital, much has been done to make it a modern city. Most of the Chinese who come to America are from Canton. A million and a half people live in this largest and richest city of the south. More than half of them live in boats, for Canton is the home of the water or *sampan* people. Near Canton is Hong Kong, an island which belongs to Great Britain. Its capital city, Victoria, is a great seaport for international trade. The products of the richest part of China come down the Yangtze River to Shanghai, one of the world's great ports.

Railroads, bus lines, and air lines connect some of these eastern cities. But in the heart of China, far from the eastern coast, most of the Chinese people still travel and live in the slow, centuries-old manner of their ancestors.



A MODERN STREET IN SHANGHAI

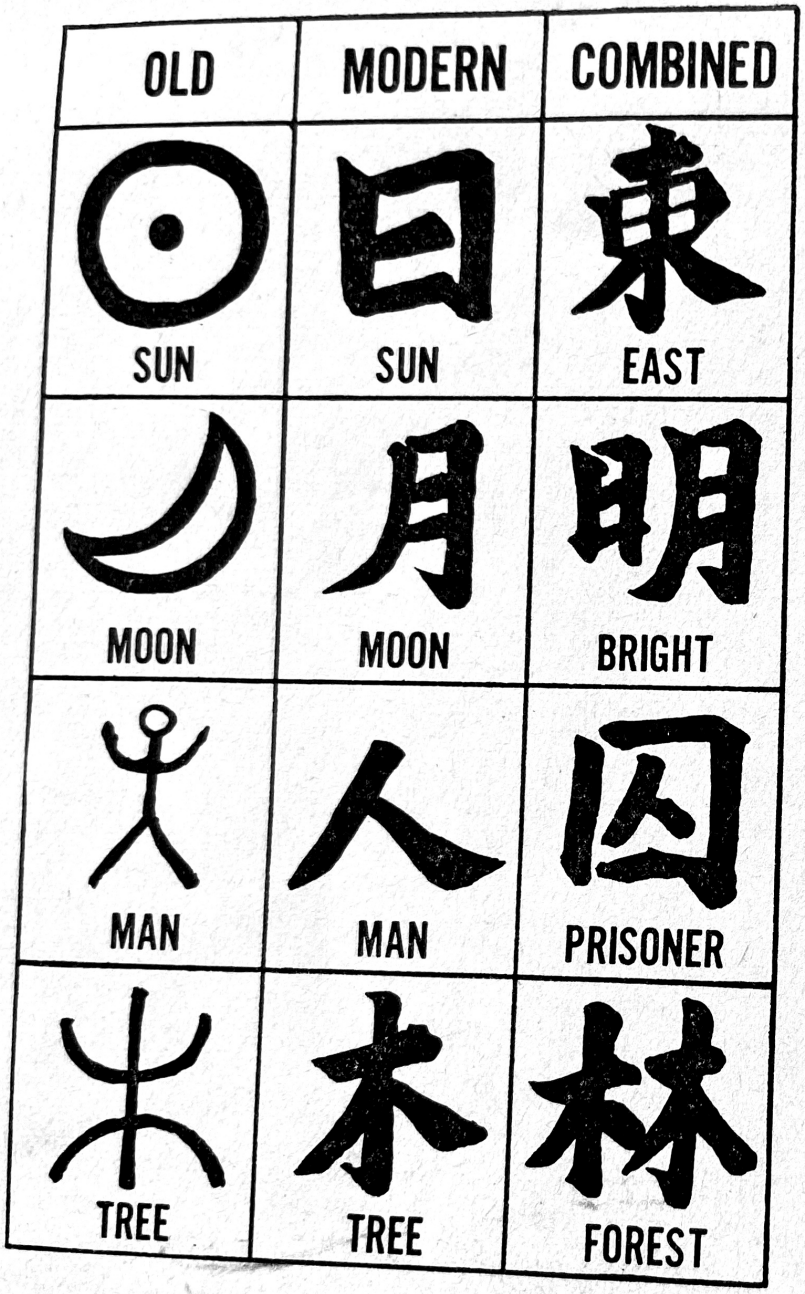
The Middle Glorious People's Nation

For several hundred years before China became a republic, the Chinese were ruled by their neighbors, the Manchus, whose home was north of China. The Manchus were asked into China to help settle a quarrel and they liked the country so much that they stayed to rule it. They made the Chinese men and boys wear a long braid, called a queue, down their backs as a sign that they were ruled by the Manchus. The Chinese did not like to have the Manchus rule them, but for a long time they could not do anything about it.

At last the Chinese people rebelled against the Manchus and decided to have a government like that of the "Beautiful Nation," as they called the United States. So in 1912, China became a republic. Then off came the queues! Some families hung their queues on their front doors. *Bang, bang!* went the firecrackers, and "*Goong hay! Goong hay!*" (congratulations) shouted the people.

The Middle Glorious Kingdom is now *Chung Wa Maan Kwok*, or the Middle Glorious People's Nation. The Great Giant is taking his place in the modern world.

A MODERN CHINESE FAMILY



Chinese Characters

Chinese words first were expressed by pictures. A circle with a dot in it stood for the sun; a crescent, for the moon; head, body, arms, and legs for a man; branches, trunk, and roots, for a tree. Gradually the pictures changed until today they are quite different.

Some characters are combined to make others. Sun and tree mean east; sun and moon, bright; man in a square, a prisoner; two trees, a forest.